A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday July 5. 1711.

IN Discourſing of the Trade to the *South-Seas*, I came in my laſt to the Article of Return from *America* to *Old Spain*, which I gave you in the Groſs, as I have all along done in the reſt; and thus, I think, you have the State of the Trade, as it has been from the firſt Planting *America* by the *Spaniards*, to the Time of the breaking out of the preſent War, and of *Spain* falling into the Hands of the Houſe of *Bourbon*.

It is true, this Trade has formerly ſuffer'd ſome Interruption, eſpecially in Queen *Elizabeth*'s Time, as by Sir *Francis Drake*, the Earl of *Cumberland*, Sir *Walter Raleigh*, and others; and ſince that Time, by the *Buccaniers*, Pyrates, &c. But this has amounted to nothing Eſſential againſt the Trade; theſe were at firſt, only making Repriſals for Loſſes ſuſtain'd by the *Spaniards*, and after making fair War upon *America*, as the Dominion of the King of *Spain*; but made no pretence to Trade, Plant, Settle, and Poſſeſs the Country, or any part thereof, or to Eſtabliſh a Correſpondence of Commerce, between the Country or any part of it; it is true, they frequently Landed for Plunder and Devaſtation, but they never went with any Deſign, or furniſhed for any ſuch Deſign,

Deſign, of Settling and Planting there.

I remember but three Attempts which were at any Time made upon any Dominions of the *Spaniards* in *America*, with Deſign to Settle, Trade, and Plant upon the Country; *The firſt* was by Sir *Walter Raleigh*, in King *James* I's Time, whoſe Enterprize was on the South ſide the Bay or Gulph of *Mexico*, about *Guiana* and the *Rio d'Amazones*, the Miſcarriage of which Attempt, every Body that has read any Thing of thoſe Things, knows was owing to the Treachery of our Court at Home, and the Subtilty of the *Spaniſh* Ambaſſador, Count *Gondomir*: *The ſecond* was in *Oliver Cromwell*'s Time, when *Pen* and *Venables* were ſent with a Fleet and a good Body of Troops, to Attempt the Iſland of *Hiſpaniola*; which Deſign alſo Miſcarried, but did not prove wholly Abortive and Ineffectual, ſince they took the Iſland of *Jamaica*, which has ever ſince remain'd in our Poſſeſſion: *The Third Attempt* was that of *Darien*, of which I ſhall ſay no more here than this, that if we had kept Poſſeſſion of it when we had it, this new Undertaking would have appear'd to me much eaſier than I fear now it will be —— but of that hereafter; 'tis never too late to retrieve Errors, tho' it is always beſt to do it early.

We are now to Enquire into the State of the *American* Trade, as it relates to *Spain*, ſince the beginning of the preſent War, and ſo on to this Time; and this will lead us directly to the Deſign in View.

As ſoon as the King of *France* had laid his Hand, as we may ſay, upon *Spain* for his Grandſon, and plac'd him on the *Spaniſh* Throne, we ſaw *France* by the Neceſſity of the Thing, put, as it were into Poſſeſſion of all the Dominions of that vaſt Monarchy, under the ſpecious Pretence of Preſerving it for his Grandſon, King *Philip* —— The *Netherlands* open'd the Door to *France* firſt, and the Duke of *Bavaria* let the *French Garriſons* into all the Strong Towns in *Flanders*, in one Day, which he is driven out of again but very ſlowly, and with a vaſt Expence of Blood and Treaſure: *Old Spain* receiv'd *French* Garriſons and *French* Armies, and we ſaw the *French* Aiding the Armies of *Philip* V. to our Coſt, at the *Battles* of *Almanza* and *Villa Vitioſa*.

On the ſame Pretence the King of *France* ſent over Officers, Engineers, (and gradually Soldiers alſo) to the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*, alledging at firſt, the Neceſſity to put the *Spaniards* there in a Poſture of Defence, but after that, alledging the need of Maintaining the Coaſt againſt the Threatned Depredations of the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* — By this Artifice, the *French* are at this Time in Garriſon at *Carthagena*, at the *Havana*, at *Portobello*, at *Panama*, the Fortifications are in all theſe Places Repair'd, Garriſons Maintain'd, and every Place is Stor'd and Furniſh'd for Defence; it is true, theſe are all under *Spaniſh* Governours, but the other Officers are many, if not moſt of them *French*.

But at *Lima*, the *French* have a Formal Poſſeſſion; the Town is put into their Hands, King *Philip* having given it to them, *as they alledge, only for a Time, for their Security* —Here they have built a Citadel, have a great Magazine of Arms and Ammunition, have Fortify'd the Harbour or River, and in ſhort, have put themſelves into ſuch a Poſture, that when the *Spaniards* propos'd to remove all the *French* out of *Spain*, and the King of *France* did withdraw his Troops from *Old Spain*, yet he pretended to keep *Lima*; not that he would keep it againſt his Grandſon, King *Philip*, for that he need not, but he pretended that if *Philip* ſhould agree to part with *Old* and *New Spain*, yet that the *French* in *Lima* would not turn out, but ſhould keep Poſſeſſion there, in ſpight of King *Charles* and all his Forces.

Here the *French* have Planted, many Families live in the Country round, and from hence along the Shoar of *Peru* and *Chili*, they have ſeiz'd ſeveral little Ports, where they are *Settled and Fortify'd*, and perhaps too ſtrong to be eaſily diſmiſs'd from thence——This Poſſeſſion they alledge two Things for.

1. They ſay King *Philip* has agreed, that whatever they can take the Poſſeſſion of, South of *Potoſi*, and where no *Spaniard*

niards now Inhabited, ſhould be freely their own, and this they ſay he might juſtly do, by the Example of the Confederates, who in the Grand Alliance have done the ſame Thing; King *Charles* III. having allow'd the *Engliſh* to keep whatever they can take Poſſeſſion of in *America*, ſo that King *Charles* by this Article, *ſay they*, has actually given all *America* to the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, if they think it worth their while to go and fetch it; which if they do not, it muſt be own'd it is none of his Fault but their own.

I muſt confeſs, *if I may be allow'd to ſpeak freely of this*, two Things ſeem'd very odd to me in it; 1. It always ſeem'd to me a moſt unaccountable Article, eſpecially to be Stipulated by thoſe who made a PARTITION of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy ſo Felonious a Thing, and abuſed the late King ſo much for it; 2. It ſeem'd to me very ſtrange, that while at the ſame time we Exclaim'd againſt the *French* for talking of giving away the Crown or Kingdom of *Spain*, which was King *Philip*'s Title, and which we ſaid was no Title at all, we ſhould allow King *Ch*—III. had Power to GIVE us ſuch Parts of the *Spaniſh* Dominions in *America* as we could catch.

But this is by the by, and I place it only among thoſe many Things which cauſe me to believe, that thoſe People who were ſo Angry at that Treaty, yet did not think it ſo Felonious as they talk'd of, and rather Quarrell'd the Treaty for the ſake of ſome that made it, than for any real Objections againſt the Thing itſelf.

We have now fought eight or nine Years ſince that Treaty, and ſome part of that Time with as much Succeſs as we could expect, I had almoſt ſaid as we could wiſh, and yet we find ſome People who loudly Rail'd at the Treaty, and call'd it a *Felonious Treaty*, eager to turn the Tables, and not only make Peace with *France* upon a *Partition*, but upon a Turn of the Tables, are for giving the *French* Party *Spain* and the *Indies*, which is the Subſtance that Treaty had retain'd, and contenting our Allies with the *&c. cetera's* which that Treaty had parted with.

I ſhall conclude this Digreſſion with ſaying this one Thing: Among all thoſe that cry out ſo loud for Peace at this Time, I would fain ſee the Face of that Man who dare tell this Nation, They ſhall accept of Peace this Year upon worſe Terms than *France* offer'd the Year before, and yet pretend we are in a better Condition to reduce *France* than we were before.

I ſay this, becauſe I look on it to be a Malicious Invective upon the Queen and the preſent Adminiſtration, to ſuggeſt that Peace is now to be made upon mean, precarious and diſhonourable Terms, which I ſhall never give my ſelf leave to believe, till I ſee the Miniſtry depriv'd of their Honeſty and Senſes, or till I ſee the Confederate Army beaten out of the Field, which I hope we are in no danger of yet.

It is true, it is the Queen's Prerogative to make Peace and War, and I am none of thoſe that are for Invading her Majeſty's Rights; but the Houſes of Parliament have Addreſs'd her Majeſty not to ſheath this Sword till all the *Spaniſh* Monarchy be reſtor'd to the Houſe of *Auſtria*; Her Majeſty has anſwer'd, That 'tis her Opinion no Peace can be ſafe without it ——— I will not ſay what *little Matters*, for Peace ſake, the Queen and Parliament, or the Queen, with Advice of her Parliament and Conſent of her Allies, may think fit to concede to *Philip* V. to put an End to a Bloody War; but I cannot but wonder what *Plenipo* would venture to Sign, or what ..... to adviſe a Conceſſion of *Spain* and the *Indies* to King *Philip*, the Parliament being not moved in, or acquainted with ſuch a Treaty, nor any Accident of War making it more reaſonable than it was laſt Year, when *France* offer'd all *Spain* and the *Indies* to King *Charles*.

This

This Digreſſion has indeed put me off from the Subject I am upon, but I hope it may not be Uſeleſs, after what a wiſe Author call'd the *Examiner*, has propos'd to the World about Peace; I ſhall return to the Subject of the *South Sea* Trade in my next.

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